



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF:

Micah Stoltzfus

Date of Birth: 08/01/2013
Date of Death: 08/09/2015
Date of Report to ChildLine: 07/21/2015
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

FAMILY WAS NOT KNOWN TO LANCASTER COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY AT TIME OF INCIDENT OR WITHIN THE PRECEDING 16 MONTHS:

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:
12/16/15**

Unredacted reports are confidential under the provisions of the Child Protective Services Law and cannot be released to the public.
(23 Pa. C.S. Section 6340)

Unauthorized release is prohibited under penalty of law.
(23 Pa. C.S. Section 6349 (b))

Reason for Review:

Pursuant to the Child Protective Services Law, the Department, through OCYF, must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a fatality or near fatality. This written report must be completed as soon as possible but no later than six months after the date the report was registered with ChildLine for investigation.

The Child Protective Services Law also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a fatality or near fatality is substantiated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the report to ChildLine.

Lancaster County Children and Youth Services Agency has not convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. Lancaster County Children and Youth Services Agency [REDACTED] their investigation prior to the mandated 30 day timeframe, thus a county review was not required.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Micah Stoltzfus	victim child	08/01/2013
[REDACTED]	biological mother	[REDACTED] 1975
[REDACTED]	biological father	[REDACTED] 1972
[REDACTED]	sibling	[REDACTED] 1999
[REDACTED]	sibling	[REDACTED] 2002
[REDACTED]	sibling	[REDACTED] 2004
[REDACTED]	sibling	[REDACTED] 2006
[REDACTED]	sibling	[REDACTED] 2009

Summary of OCYF Child Fatality Review Activities:

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current case records and medical records pertaining to the Family. Follow up interviews were conducted with the county agency caseworker, [REDACTED]; supervisor, [REDACTED]; intake director, [REDACTED] and agency administrator [REDACTED]. The interviews occurred on the following dates: 7/22/15, 7/23/15, 8/3/15, 8/10/15, and 8/11/15.

Children and Youth Involvement Prior to Incident:

Lancaster County Children and Youth Services Agency did not have prior involvement with the child or the family prior to the reported incident on 7/21/2015.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 7/20/15, an incident occurred on the property of the family home. The victim child and siblings were home with their mother. The children's mother was completing chores in the home and the children were outside playing. The family home has a swimming pool on the property. The pool is a four foot above ground swimming pool. It was reported that normally the ladder for the swimming pool sits inside the pool for safety purposes. The victim child and siblings were swimming. The ladder was out for purpose of access to get in and out of the pool. It was reported the victim child had chest and arm floatation devices on while swimming. The victim child informed his mother that he was done swimming and wanted to go into the family home. The child would proceed to go into the house. The child would then inform his mother a short time later that he wanted to go back outside to play but not to go swimming. The victim child's mother did not proceed to place the floatation devices back on the child as he informed her he did not want to swim.

The child went outside and the mother reported she saw him playing on the play house on the property via the kitchen window. According to the report, approximately ten minutes or less later, the victim child's mother would hear an older sibling screaming for help and pulling the victim child out of the family swimming pool. The victim child was unresponsive; the mother called Emergency Management Services (EMS). In addition, the mother attempted to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on the child, along with a neighbor; who came over to the property to help assist until local EMS arrived at the scene.

Upon arrival, local EMS [REDACTED] and made arrangements to transport the child to a local fire company near the family home for purpose of having the child air lifted to Penn State Hershey Medical Center (PSHMC). The child's heart was not beating; however, medical staffs were able to regain a pulse. The child needed [REDACTED] The child's [REDACTED] however, due to the period of time without blood flow and oxygen to the brain, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The child's condition did not improve.

The child was moved [REDACTED] which was in closer proximity to the family's home. The family would remain by the victim child's side. The child's condition began to decline [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Medical staff of the facility would discover the child [REDACTED] The family had a discussion with medical staff regarding [REDACTED] Medical staff informed the family [REDACTED] would not help improve the subject child's condition. The child would ultimately pass away on 8/9/15. It was reported the child appeared to be free of pain. The victim child's family was with the child.

Lancaster County Children and Youth Services Agency received the [REDACTED] report on 7/21/15. The county agency staff would see the family at PSHMC on 7/22/15. The report was [REDACTED] as a near fatality as the child at that time was in serious or critical condition. The victim child's family was cooperative with Lancaster County Children and Youth Services as well as local area law enforcement. The victim child's siblings were seen and their safety assessed by the county agency. The county also completed an additional visit to the family home. The county agency determined the children to be safe with their family. Law enforcement determined the incident was accidental and no charges were pursued by the County District Attorney's Office. On 8/10/15, Lancaster County Children and Youth Services [REDACTED] the [REDACTED] investigation. The county provided the family reference materials and or linkage for services in the area of [REDACTED]; however, the family did not wish to receive agency services. The victim child's family is members of the Amish Community; thus they have community support within their community during such times of hardship.

Summary of County Strengths, Deficiencies and Recommendations for Change as Identified by the County's Child Near Fatality Report:

Lancaster County Children and Youth Services Agency [REDACTED] the report within 30 days; therefore, they were not required to convene an Act 33 meeting.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The agency was not required to convene an Act 33 meeting or submit a county internal report due to the case being [REDACTED] within 30 days.

Department of Human Services Findings:

The efforts of EMS personnel or local first responders to the scene should be commended. Ultimately, the child would not survive the incident; however, they were able to regain circulation or pulse along with coordination efforts to have the child taken in a timely manner to the hospital for expansive treatment. Thus the child was able to survive for a period of time post incident. Collaboration within local communities and county agencies can help to ensure such services continue to have the desired impact on the geographic areas served.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

This incident was determined to be accidental; however, the Department would like to reference the potential dangers for young children and water related incidents beyond swimming pools or recreational related incidents. Each year, families experience bathroom related incidents which correlate to severe trauma and death of young children. Therefore, it is recommended that further analyzation of such data be conducted in order to develop and or bolster public services announcements or increase public awareness if the findings support the need.